

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

S E C R E T STATE 072327

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF, ZA, US

SUBJECT: ZAMBIANS SEEK US INTERCESSION WITH SAG

REF: LUSAKA 549

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES CONCERN SHOWN BY CHONA THAT, UNLESS SAG MAKES MEANINGFUL STATEMENTS ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, FORTHCOMING OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING MAY DIRECT THAT ALL AFRICAN CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA BE TERMINATED. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES SAG FULLY AWARE OF DANGERS TO DETENTE AT THE OAU MEETING. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SAID IN HIS MARCH 13 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT MEETING IS

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QUOTE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT UNQUOTE WITH QUOTE POTENTIAL TO

VITALLY INFLUENCE AFRICAN EVENTS FOR A LONG TIME TO COME
UNQUOTE. SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS ALSO
MENTIONED ITS APPRECIATION OF IMPORTANCE OF OAU MEETING.

2. THE POSSIBILITY OF AN APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICA ON
NAMIBIA IS UNDER URGENT CONSIDERATION. WE WILL LET YOU
KNOW OF OUR DECISION, BUT REQUEST YOU NOT DISCLOSE POSSIBLE
APPROACH TO GRZ.

3. REGARDING RHODESIA, OUR INFORMATION IS THAT VORSTER
RECENTLY CONFIRMED HIS ORDER CONFINING SA POLICE IN
RHODESIA TO BARRACKS AND NOT REPLACING THEM AS THEY
COMPLETE THEIR TOURS OF DUTY. ONLY SOME 640 OF ORIGINAL

1600 POLICE REMAIN IN RHODESIA AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS
SAG WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL WITHIN THE NEXT
FEW MONTHS SINCE TOURS OF DUTY ARE SHORT. DEPARTMENT
DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE RAISING WITH SAG SUBJECT OF SA
POLICE IN RHODESIA.

4. CHONA'S CONTENTIONS (PARA. 4 REFTTEL) THAT VORSTER
HAS SUBSTITUTED NEW RATIONALE FOR SA POLICE PRESENCE IN
RHODESIA HAVE BEEN NOTED BY DEPARTMENT AS WELL. HOWEVER,
VORSTER STATED THIS RATIONALE AT THE TIME OF THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CEASEFIRE IN DECEMBER AND HAS

REPEATED IT SEVERAL TIMES SINCE THEN, SO THAT THE STATE-
MENT FOLLOWING THE MARCH 18-19 MEETING WITH SMITH
INDICATES NOTHING NEW IN SA POLICY. VORSTER'S QUOTE
INHIBITION IN PUBLIC UNQUOTE AND REFERENCES TO HERZOGITE
RIGHT WING ARE PERENNIAL PREOCCUPATION OF NATIONAL
PARTY LEADERS WHO FEAR, RIGHTLY OR WRONG, HISTORICAL
TENDENCY IN SA POLITICS TO SPLIT TO RIGHT. FOR CHONA
TO FOCUS ON RIGHT WING HERSTIGE NATIONAL PARTY IS TO
IGNORE FACT THAT, IF DANGER TO VORSTER'S LEADERSHIP
EXISTS AT ALL, IT IS MORE LIKELY FROM RIGHT WING WITHIN
NATIONAL PARTY ITSELF. ALSO, THIS IS A PARTICULARLY
DIFFICULT TIME FOR VORSTER TO PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE AN
OUTRIGHT WITHDRAWAL OF SA POLICE FROM RHODESIA BECAUSE
THE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD GIVE AMMUNITION TO SMITH WHO IS
TRYING TO APPEAL TO SA AFRIKANER ELECTORATE OVER
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VORSTER'S HEAD.

5. YOU MAY WISH TO WAIT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARD-
ING POSSIBLE APPROACH ON NAMIBIA BEFORE RESPONDING TO
CHONA REQUEST THAT USG WEIGH IN WITH SAG ON SUBJECT OF
SAG PLANS FOR NAMIBIA AND SA POLICE WITHDRAWAL FROM
RHODESIA. KISSINGER

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